courts is affected by the inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments, non-filling up of posts of Presidents/Members in the consumer courts etc. To remove these obstacles, some of the important steps taken by the Central Governments are as follows:

(i) Strengthening of the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts for which Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs. 61.8 crores to supplement the efforts of the States/Union Territories (UTs).

(ii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Presidents/Members in the consumer courts in time.

(iii) Central Government has written to the State/UT Governments to hold periodical meetings with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of the cases.

(iv) Central Government and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.

(v) Central Government conducts training courses for the Members of the Consumer Courts to acquaint them with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Rules and other relevant legislations.

(vi) Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 as considered necessary.

Military help to Sri Lanka

†1301. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lankan Government have sought any kind of military assistance from Government; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In April, 2000, after the fall of Elephant Pass to the LTTE, the Sri Lanka Government had requested the Government of India for military assistance. Government do not intend to intervene militarily in Sri Lanka.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.